

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 and 21 are pending in this application and all claims are rejected.

Reconsideration of the rejections in view of the following remarks is requested.

I. U.S. Patent No. 5,731,081 to Esu

The Office rejected Claims 1-6, 8, 10-12, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,731,081 to Esu (hereinafter "Esu"). Esu does not disclose the components in the claimed proportions. Esu discloses a formulation that is 50-70% methylated melamine-formaldehyde and 30-50% polyurethane. Col. 11, Line 61 – Col. 12, Line 12. By weight ratio this is a maximum of 2.33 to 1. This falls outside the claimed range of between 200:1 and 4:1. Esu goes on to disclose that the preferred weight ratio is 1:1. Therefore, Esu does not teach or disclose the claimed limitations.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the Esu reference, taken alone or in combination with the other references relied upon, fail to disclose the claimed invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

II. U.S. Patent No. 5,731,081 to Esu in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,293,378 to Klein

The Office rejected Claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable

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over U.S. Patent No. 5,731,081 to Esu in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,293,378 to Klein (hereinafter "Klein"). Neither Klein nor Esu teach a fiber mat containing the claimed ratio of fiber binder to urethane modifier. Klein does not teach the use of any urethane modifier.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the Esu reference, taken alone or in combination with the Klein reference, fails to disclose the claimed invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the present application define patentable subject matter and that the application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number below.

Attached is a petition for a one month extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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